

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Mie TAKAHASHI et al. : Attn: BOX PCT
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001-1890A
Filed December 28, 2001 :

CHROMATOGRAPHY MEASURING
DEVICE
[Corresponding to PCT/JP01/03683
Filed April 27, 2001]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced U.S. patent application please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein a measurement region at least from a marker reagent holding part in which a marker reagent is held, located upstream, to a specific protein immobilization part in which a specific protein is immobilized, located downstream, in the chromatography specimen is adherently covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material.
6. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chromatography specimen is constituted by laminating or connecting plural porous materials.

7. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chromatography specimen is composed of a single-layer porous material.
9. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chromatographic downstream region which is not covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material is covered with a gas-permeable material.
12. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein a space forming part for forming arbitrary space is provided on the chromatographic downstream region which is not covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material.
14. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 12, wherein the space forming part is composed of a liquid-impermeable material.
15. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chromatography specimen is an immunochromatography specimen employing an antigen-antibody reaction.
16. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chromatography specimen is a dry analysis element.
17. (Amended) The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chromatography specimen is a one-step specimen

REMARKS

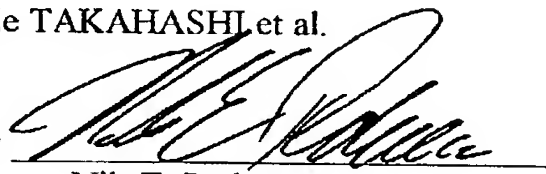
The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claims, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Preliminary Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to
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chromatography specimen, except for both of its end regions on chromatographic upstream and downstream, are adherently covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material.

5. The chromatography measuring device as defined in ^{Claim 1} any of Claims 1 to 4, wherein

a measurement region at least from a marker reagent holding part in which a marker reagent is held, located upstream, to a specific protein immobilization part in which a specific protein is immobilized, located downstream, in the chromatography specimen is adherently covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material.

6. The chromatography measuring device as defined in ^{Claim 1} any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein

the chromatography specimen is constituted by laminating or connecting plural porous materials.

7. The chromatography measuring device as defined in ^{Claim 1} any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein

the chromatography specimen is composed of a single-layer porous material.

8. The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 7, wherein

the single-layer porous material is nitrocellulose.

9. The chromatography measuring device as defined in ^{Claim 1} any of Claims 1 to 8, wherein

the chromatographic downstream region which is not

covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material is covered with a gas-permeable material.

10. The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 9, wherein

the gas-permeable material is an arbitrary porous thin-film material such as a nonwoven fabric.

11. The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 9, wherein

the gas-permeable material is retiform tissue.

12. The chromatography measuring device as defined in ^{Claim 1} any of Claims 1 to 8, wherein

a space forming part for forming arbitrary space is provided on the chromatographic downstream region which is not covered with the liquid-impermeable sheet material.

13. The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 12, wherein

a gap part is provided in an arbitrary region, such as at the end or on a parallel side of the chromatographic downstream region in the space forming part, or on the top surface of the space forming part, so as to enable air inflow.

14. The chromatography measuring device as defined in Claim 12 or 13, wherein

the space forming part is composed of a liquid-impermeable material.

15. The chromatography measuring device as defined in ^{Claim 1} any of

Claims 1 to 14, wherein

the chromatography specimen is an immunochromatography specimen employing an antigen-antibody reaction.

16. The chromatography measuring device as defined in any of Claims 1 to 15, wherein

the chromatography specimen is a dry analysis element.

17. The chromatography measuring device as defined in any of

Claims 1 to 16, wherein

the chromatography specimen is a one-step specimen.